

### 7) Cabin

To help with the grove, a laborer lived in this small building for more than 20 years. All that remains is the concrete foundation. The small, two story structure probably had one room upstairs, and one downstairs. The farmhand labored in the grove most everyday, barely eking out a living. He



grew most of his own vegetables including okra, black-eyed peas and collard greens. In addition to a garden, he probably had a hog pen containing several hogs and maybe a chicken or two.



### 8) Decline

After Mr. Green died in 1940, the family continued to raise citrus on the property until 1960 when they sold the property to John and Anne Kearney. The old grove was probably in poor shape. In the old days citrus trees were not irrigated, and most were planted on shallow beds. The lack of drainage on this wet site, combined with costly maintenance and higher production costs may have finally doomed the grove, and it was abandoned shortly thereafter. A few of the original trees persist.



### 9) Change

As you cross the canal, a careful eye will notice a subtle change in vegetation. Massive Live Oaks and old Cabbage Palms with a dense understory are found here. No longer do you see the relatively young Laurel Oaks and scattered understory of the old grove area. The mature hammock that you are in has been relatively untouched by man.

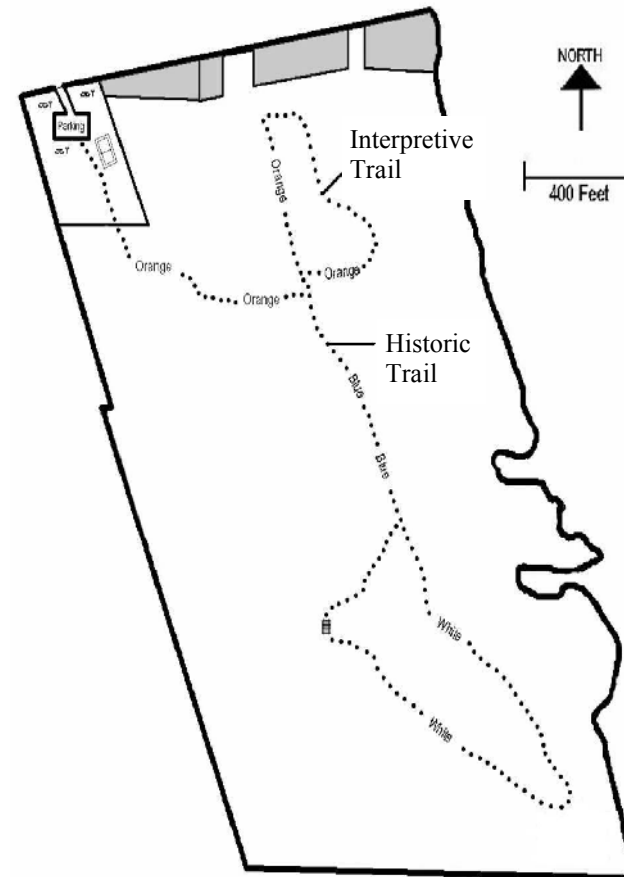


### 10) Moonshine

During the 1950's illegal moonshine was produced here. A natural creek provided an unlimited water supply that originated from an underground spring on the scrub ridge. Corn meal, sugar and yeast was brought to the site on foot, while the creek provided the water. Under the cover of darkness, the "moonshine" operation began. A small fire would boil the corn mash in a "kettle" to the point of vaporization. The liquid was trapped using copper tubing or coil. The vapor was then transferred into a second, empty container. The resulting condensation is the moonshine. The adjacent ditches have altered the historic flow of the creek.



Please use at own risk



This site was purchased with the assistance of Florida Communities Trust, in cooperation with the Town of St. Lucie Village.

## St. Lucie Village Heritage Park

### Historical Trail

A step by step history of the site

This self-guiding interpretive trail will lead you through several past events that occurred on the site.



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### 1) Early Inhabitants

Early Native American people utilized the abundant resources of the adjacent Indian River for thousands of years. The Ais fished the waters and gathered shellfish such as oysters and clams. Evidence in the form of small middens remain nearby. Once Europeans arrived, the Ais populations declined rapidly due to disease and warfare.



### 2) Turpentine

The site was turpented probably as early as the 1910's, as evidenced by the large notch on the Slash Pine in front of you.

The trees were notched in a V to capture the sap, which dripped into a clay pot that was nailed to the tree. The sap was placed in barrels and transported to a still, where it was boiled down to produce turpentine and rosin.



### 3) First owners

William Russell claimed the southern 2/3 of the site (just south of this canal) through the Armed Occupation Act. The Act, established in 1842, provided up to 160 acres of free land to settlers once they farmed 5 acres for 5 years. The property was 1/4 mile by 1/4 mile and extended from the Indian River to the Savannahs.



### 4) Skirmish

Local historians claim that the following historic event occurred at this site or near here: In July 1849, "...four Indians walked near two white men working in a field and began firing at them. Both men were hit and the Seminoles were able to overtake James Barker (who lived 1 mile south of the site) and kill him with their knives but Inspector of Customs William Russell was able to make his escape and warn the other settlers.

They quickly jumped into their small boats and, with the Indians firing from the banks, rowed rapidly to a vessel anchored in the Indian River. When the men returned to their homes on the following day they discovered that one house had been burned to the ground and two others were sacked and vandalized. Soon word was carried from one backwoods group to another and the people living along the Indian River and adjacent section fled by boat to St. Augustine for protection." (excerpts from "The Indian Scare of 1849 from "Tequesta" by James W. Covington)



The killing led to the abandonment of the colony and fueled distrust between the Indians. Some say this incident led to the Third Seminole War.



On December 1891, the estate of Susan P. Russell, the wife of William Russell, was sold to C. T. McCarty.

### 5) Citrus

William Linfield Green purchased approximately 80 acres from Annie H. Post (which was part of the old Russell homestead) in 1927. The property extended from the savannahs to the Indian River. He planted citrus on the southern 1/3 of the site (25 ac). The close proximity to town and the fertile soil and warm climate were suitable for growing the trees. Most often, a variety of citrus was planted to take advantage of different ripening seasons. The old beds where citrus trees were planted are visible in this location. The beds allowed for proper drainage.



### 6) Barn

In front of you is all that remains of a small barn that was probably used for the grove operation, and storage of small tools for a nearby garden. A few light-colored posts used for the foundation and corners of the building, are all that remain. Please do not remove, alter or destroy this evidence of our past. A short trail to the left leads to marker # 7.

